

WNTC And WTSC Set To Merge For Fall Semester

by Dan Wolfe

The decision is almost definite on the merger of WNTC and WTSC, as the *Clarkson Integrator* learned recently. If plans go as anticipated, both stations will be operating as one organization with two separate air signals from an expanded facility in the basement of the Hamlin-Powers dormitory by the beginning of the Fall 1979 Semester.

Representatives of Clarkson College, the CCSA, and the two radio stations involved all agree that the merger is "go ahead", although no final decision has been made, according to Associate Dean of Student Life Don Dangremond.

Dean Dangremond co-ordinated efforts by the CCSA, the "physical plant (or maintenance") and the school itself to relate plans which involve pro-WNTC out of its present Whalin in the Chemistry Annex is reawntown campus. The tain il for the two stations the an occupy approximately ism. A the entire Hamlin one millent. The space in excess. itly houses WTSC, an yearbook, and

a laundry room

The Clarkson College Student Association has approved one budget for the combined stations, totalling \$17,838. According to Judy Foster and Gary Ryder, Comptroller and Assistant Comptroller of the CCSA respectively, a new constitution for WTSC WNTC will have to be approved by the Senate as soon as school resumes in September. At that time, WTSC-WNTC will officially become one organization. Until then, the immediate organizational decisions are being made by a five-person committee consisting of Jim Aksel, Phil Hansen, Steve Lincoln, Dr. Paul Sammarco, and Stacey Spanos.

Hansen was station manager of WNTC for the 1978-79 school year. Spanos was elected the new station manager of WTSC in April of this year. Lincoln held the position of WNTC station manager from January 1979 until the Aksel election this April. Dr. Sammarco is one of WTSC's two faculty advisors.

The purpose of the committee, according to Lincoln, is to "organize and define the or-

ganization of the merger of WNTC and WTSC-FM." Lincoln described the committee in some detail in an exclusive interview with the *Integrator*.

As of Saturday, May 5, the committee had met 8-10 times, and was scheduled to meet again as the paper went to press. The first major meeting, called by Dean Dangremond was in January, and was attended by representatives of WNTC, WTSC, CCSA, Don Dangremond, and E. Randy Lamson, Director of Student Life Programming at Clarkson.

The committee regularly reported back to CCSA, which had its own media committee, reportedly chaired by Ed Sachs. Sachs' committee was formed to search and find reasons for the merger, and, as Lincoln put it, "to get the ball rolling." Lincoln said Sachs' committee has since dissolved.

Lincoln went on to discuss how the five-member committee will determine major officers for the new organization. The newly-combined station still has no constitution, which would normally stipulate proce-

dures for electing new officers. The major problem involved is that although each station recently elected separate officers, the combined club will have (with few exceptions) only one officer for each new position.

The committee is responsible for drafting the new constitution, and so will not only choose the officers for the 1979-80 school year, but will decide how these officers are elected in future years. Their proposed constitution will also include an article describing the procedure for amending the document. The "typical" article in the constitution of CCSA funded organizations states that the constitution may be amended by a 2/3 vote of the entire staff of the organization, subject to approval by the CCSA Student Senate.

Lincoln could not elaborate on how the future WTSC-WNTC elections will be held, because the committee had not finished writing the new constitution at the time of the interview. He did describe how officers will be chosen for the 1979-80

school year.

There will be only one station manager for the new organization. In choosing the officer, "the committee will decide which of the current directors is the strongest, and what station has been the strongest in that area the past few years," said Lincoln. Insiders at both stations agree that, according to those guidelines, Stacey Spanos, current WTSC station manager, would be the committee's choice for the top position.

Other Executives Board positions besides Station Manager are Program Director, Public Affairs Director, Business Manager and Chief Engineer. With the exception of the Program Director position, all posts will be held by only one person. There will still be separate Program Directors for WNTC and WTSC, to insure that there will be two distinct stations in terms of on-the-air music as heard by the listeners. Eventually, it is hoped that only one Program Director will be necessary. As such, the two Program Directors

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to next year will split one vote on the Executive Board.

All of the Executive Board positions will be chosen by the five-person committee. Although Lincoln admitted appointment to a post will "not be a democratic decision" (in terms of overall station membership), he felt "there won't be too much trouble" with the process, suggesting that there will be few, if any, objections to the choices made by the committee.

As previously mentioned, speculation is that Spanos will become the new Station Manager. The WTSC Program Director will still be Cliff Bodenweiser, according to Lincoln. The WNTC Program Director post is open, since Lincoln is the current Program Director of WNTC, and he's not interested in the job next fall. The new Chief Engineer would likely be Dave D'Aurelio, the current WTSC Chief Engineer. The position requires a student with a First-Class Radiotelephone license, which limits the choices of personnel considerably.

In the new organization, according to Lincoln, the News Department will be under the Public Affairs Director, and will air news casts simultaneously over both WNTC and WTSC, the Production Department and production studios will be under the Chief Engineer. Directors of both news and production will be decided this year by the committee, and in future years according to the organization's new constitution.

Lincoln admitted that the committee will have a lot of decisions to make in the next two weeks. Two members of the

committee will be graduating soon, Hansen this May and Jim Aksel this December.

The \$17,838 budget for the combined club for next year was discussed by the executive boards of both stations and other "interested persons." Lincoln explained that these other people were basically freshmen who will someday likely hold Executive Board positions.

"The move itself was initiated by the school," according to Judy Foster, CCSA Comptroller. It seems clear that Clarkson wants WNTC out of the Chemistry Annex. The Annex has been slated for demolition for 30 years, according to several sources. Robert Tyler of Plant Operation and Maintenance will likely decide what the fate of the building will be after WNTC moves out. Sharing the annex with WNTC is the Mechanical Engineering Department, which uses a good deal of the building for storage. One source described the ME storage section as "falling apart." No one contacted was certain how much money the school will save by not having to heat the annex. Everyone agreed the savings will be "substantial." The building is generally regarded as being very poorly insulated.

Neither Don Dangremond nor Steve Lincoln wished to discuss the costs of reconstruction involved in remodeling and expanding the Hamlin-Powers

basement to accomodate the combined stations. It seems certain that Senate alone cannot absorb the cost. As Foster commented, "they (the school)

aren't going to hit us (CCSA) with a \$50,000 bill." Currently, Senate has put \$3000 aside for the merger from their contingency fund of about \$15,000.

The figure mentioned by Foster is in no way related to any realistic actual cost, warned Dangremond. Such a high figure merely represents rumor, not actual estimates.

Geoff Bourne, who is on the committee of station members that designed the floor plans now up for proposal with Maintenance Director "Bill" Smith, agrees that all estimates are only rumors. No one but Smith could make even a rough estimate of the cost, says Bourne, and he doesn't believe that estimate has been made yet.

Both Bourne and Dangremond also agree that the true cost will be higher than last year's Graham Hall renovations, but not significantly higher. "It's the same type of construction (as Graham Hall)," said Bourne. Last year, between \$10,000-\$12,000 was spent remodelling the basement of Graham Hall to accomodate ICRN-TV and the *Clarkson Integrator*.

One cost which was mentioned by Bourne was a figure of \$7000 to hire four students to help with work which doesn't require contractors. Bourne cautioned, however, that it was just a "ballpark figure." Dangremond wasn't certain how many students would be hired, but agreed that "a lot of this work doesn't need a contractor."

Both Dangremond and Bourne stressed that the project will utilize as much volunteer

work as possible. Bourne elaborated further, saying that the "ripping out" of the old equipment will be entirely volunteer work. This job has already begun at WTSC, and will get into "high gear during Senior Week," said Bourne.

Because of the anticipated volunteer help, "the actual moving expenses will be practically nothing." The construction is what will be costly.

Bourne cited many money-saving proposals in the plans, including "staying totally within present concrete walls...saving as many windows as possible to keep costs down,...(and) taking old doors and windows from WNTC." He also mentioned that the cinder blocks used for additional walls might be filled with sand as a low-cost acoustical isolation technique. Audio wiring will be done by the students, to insure that it will be done "the way we want it done," said Bourne.

Additionally, about \$1000 per year will be saved on more efficient cable use and radio lines, Bourne commented. In fact, the new combined budget of \$17,838 is about \$5000 less than the two-budget total last year.

Much of the construction work will be done in stages. Dangremond mentioned that whatever minimal work is needed to get both stations on the air will be done first. The entire proposal may take two to three years.

Bourne elaborated, saying that this summer's goal is to get the two air studios, music office, and record library complete. Also, a temporary news

and production room will be built. Lincoln commented that WTSC's current production facility is in bad shape, and "we need a new one for next year." WNTC has not had full production capabilities at their station for about two years.

Phil Hansen and Steve Lincoln have presented a proposal to Edward Wixted, Clarkson Treasurer, which would solicit donations of equipment for the new studios, presumably from companies with Clarkson alumni.

WTSC-FM will still operate on 91.1 FM Stereo, and WNTC-FM will still be at 89.9 FM Stereo. WNTC is also on carrier-current within the Clarkson Hill dorms at 640 on the AM dial. All AM transmitters at Potsdam State have "died", explains Bourne, but plans are on the drawing board for an experimental FM carrier-current for SUCP in the future. The idea, however, is still more than a full semester from any possible action, Bourne admitted.



TOP TEN

Top Ten Singles of the Week

- 1) I Hate You—Todd Hobin Band
- 2) Reunited—Peaches & Herb
- 3) Blow Away—George Harrison
- 4) Heart of Glass—Blondie
- 5) Precious Love—Bob Welch
- 6) Goodnight Tonight—Wings
- 7) Music Box Dancer—Frank Mills
- 8) I Want Your Love—Chic
- 9) Renegade—Styx
- 10) Love You Inside Out—Bee Gees

WNTC COLUMN

Top Ten Albums of the Week

- 1) Minute by Minute—Doobie Brothers
- 2) Todd Hobin Band—Todd Hobin Band
- 3) Breakfast in America—Supertramp
- 4) Forever—Orleans
- 5) Dire Straits—Dire Straits
- 6) Paradise Alley—Lake
- 7) Cheap Trick Live at Budokan—Cheap Trick
- 8) Sooner or Later—Rex Smith
- 9) Desolation Angels—Bad Company
- 10) Van Halen II—Van Halen

Polygram records are gaining on CBS records as the biggest seller of singles in the United States. Polygram distributed through Casablanca, RSO, Capricorn, and Polydor Records over the past year. These record companies have sold extraordinarily large numbers of records. Donna Summer, The Village People, and Kiss lead the Casablanca crowd, while Gloria Gaynor, ARS, Frank Mills, and Peaches & Herb lead Polydor. Of course RSO has Player, Eric Clapton, Andy Gibb, and the Bee Gees. In fact, reports are that "YMCA" is nearing the 4 million mark. Congratulations to that relatively new record distributor, Polygram, for their fantastic success.

Looking at this week's countdown three Polygram singles inhabit the Top Ten: Bee Gee's "Love You Inside Out" which jumps up from 28, Frank Mill's "Music Box Dancer", and "Reunited" by Peaches & Herb heading for number 1.

The biggest surprise this week is Todd Hobin's big jump to number 1 from number 10. It is the biggest jump to number 1 since "You Light Up My Life" jumped there in its first week on the Top 40.

It also marks the biggest local hit since Boz Scaggs' "Georgia" in the fall of 1976.

Other songs to look out for are "The Logical Song", "Minute by Minute", and "Honesty." Make sure to hear all the best songs of the last two semesters on the Top 100 countdown May 11, this Friday at 6:00.